

## MINUTES

### Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Temple Beth-El, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Date: December 17, 2015

<p><b>Trustees Present:</b> Ann Berkson, Allen Blum, Paul Feil, Diane Fleishman, Renee Frank, Leslie Glater, Monika Kimball, Ned Rubin, Ellen Torres, Erich Zameret, Dave Zeemont, Rabbi Karol (ex-officio), <b>Trustees Absent:</b> David Fishman, Mark Saltman <b>Guest(s):</b> Linda Kruger</p>
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#### Opening:

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by President Monika Kimball at 7:00 pm.

**Invocation:** The Rabbi gave the Invocation.

**Acceptance of Minutes (as corrected, if applicable):** The minutes of the last meeting, Thursday, November 19, 2015, were approved.

#### Leadership / Board Reports

- A. Rabbi's Report:** The Rabbi reported that we had close to 90 people present, including some local community members, at the Shabbat Chanukah service on December 11. The Rabbi thanked all who attended and took part in the service, including thanks to the choir for their musical participation. Ron Bernstein presented a program on the Israeli Movement for Progressive Judaism on Wednesday, December 16 at 7:30 pm here at the Temple. The Religious School will hold its annual Tu Bishevat Seder on Sunday, January 24 at 11:00 am. The Rabbi, Monika, and Allen will meet with the head of the Jewish Federation of El Paso, Daniel Chejfec. Rabbi Karol's parsonage allowance is \$19,000 for the calendar year of 2016.
- B. President's Report:** Monika Kimball reported that Temple leaders will meet tomorrow, December 18, with the accounting firm of Kriegel/Gray/Shaw, & Co., P.C. to discuss the possibility of using their services. The group may also meet with Jennifer Blazer regarding her bookkeeping and payroll services. At the Ad Hoc Committee on Finances meeting, Ned Rubin mentioned that if we did not have liability insurance for board members and officers, Directors and Officers Liability Insurance, we should look into it. Monika called our insurance agent, Pat Campbell Insurance, and learned that we do not have such coverage. They will get back to her regarding premium costs. Monika gave kudos for the wonderful Chanukah Shabbat on Friday, December 11, the great attendance, and plentiful food thanks to the support of many congregants. She reported that it was a very festive event, with excellent music and lots of participation from the children. Monika received a letter from Mike Batkin that reminded us of his challenge to

match congregants' donations (up to \$1,800) and asked that it be advertised again in Adelante. He will support TBE if asked, but needs commitment from the congregation as well. The January 23 Family Festivus plans are moving along, with the invitations going out on January 2.

- C. **Treasurer's Report:** Paul Feil shared a letter to be sent from the Board of Trustees to Citizens Bank requesting that the Bank facilitate online banking by our Treasurer, Paul. He is to have access to all accounts linked to the Temple Beth-El General Account. Paul shared the Profit and Loss Comparison (Expense Comparison) and the Receivables by Account (Income Comparison).

### **Committee Reports**

- A. **Library Report:** Linda Kruger, Chair of the Library Committee, was present to give her report. The goal is to get our catalog holdings into electronic format. The library has received two large, high quality gifts-in-kind, totaling approximately two dozen bags/boxes of books from donors Colette Meltzer and the Estate of Mary Fitzgerald. Simultaneous with fully cataloging all gifts-in-kind upon receipt, we catalog longtime holdings. Our electronic database now has 1,600 titles. Dave Zeemont, Betsy Fuller, Paula Kramer, and Linda Kruger, are working diligently to get all our holdings catalogued and made shelf-ready so that the catalog can be linked to the Temple's website. At this point, the library is totally out of space. Several plans remain to be discussed. Two major purchases will occur soon: a library ladder and a new computer where cataloging is done. Death and illness have reduced the numbers of the Library Committee, and Linda indicated that she is hoping to add new members.
- B. **Sisterhood Report:** Leslie Glater reported that the Sisterhood meeting was held last night, Wednesday, December 16, 2015, where Treasurer Lynn Zeemont reported that the balance of the Sisterhood budget is \$8,653.81. Almost \$900 was spent for the Chanukah purchases for the Judaica Shop, and items sold totaled \$1,119.86. The profit from those sales was \$269.84, but there is more inventory now. The account balance is close to \$2,200. The next rummage sale is tentatively set for May 22, 2016. More details to follow. It was suggested that older kitchen items be sold in the rummage sale and that new items be purchased. Sisterhood recommends that the 2016 Seder again be held at Picacho Hills Country Club on April 23, 2016. Lynn Zeemont and Michele Blum will not be able to chair the "Break the Fast" on October 12, 2016, so other volunteers for this are being sought. The date for the 2016 Golf Tournament is not yet set, but it will take place in October 2016. Sisterhood gave a \$300 grant to the Library toward the purchase of a new computer. The next Sisterhood meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2016 at 7:00 pm.
- C. **Mensch Club Report:** Dave Zeemont gave a financial statement to Paul Feil. The balance of their budget is \$373.92. He said the Club will meet in February to show a movie.
- D. **Long-Range/Strategic Planning Committee:** Chair Allen Blum stated that his committee will resume meetings after the first of the year.

- E. **Adult Education Committee:** Chair Ellen Torres stated that the next event will be the fourth annual Dona Ana Lyric Opera Company performance of the NMSU Bel Canto Scholarship winners on Sunday, January 31. Adult Ed is also hosting a Belrussian violinist, Yevgeny Kutik, on Wednesday, March 2, who is performing with the Las Cruces Symphony later in the week. The Adult Education Committee and the Rabbi Kane Adult Education Scholarship Fund will help pay the violinist's \$500 fee. The Di Kavene Kapelye Klezmer group from Albuquerque has agreed to perform at the JFFF on April 17. The Adult Education Committee is hosting the group. In May the committee is planning a presentation of Stories of Our Mothers and Grandmothers along with family recipes that will culminate in a publication. They will hold a sing-a-long with Rabbi Karol in June. The next Adult Ed meeting will be held in February.
- F. **Religious Practices Committee:** The Rabbi reported on behalf of the Committee. He plans to send out a Wufoo survey about service times on Friday nights by next Tuesday. It will offer options of 6:00 pm, 7:00 pm, and the current 7:30 pm. There will be a letter going to the congregation asking for volunteers to take part in Shabbat services like we have done for High Holy Day worship. The committee has previously decided that there will be only one service on Family Shabbat Fridays. Shabbat Across America will be held on March 4. This usually includes a service and a dinner. We will be one of 500 congregations participating in this nationwide. We will invite members of local congregations to attend. The Committee recommended that Temple Beth-El adopt *Mishkan Hanfesh* for congregational use for the High Holydays in the fall of 2016.
- G. **Religious School Committee:** The Rabbi reported on behalf of Mark Saltman, who was absent. The children were very active in the Shabbat Chanukah service. They presented readings before the candle lighting, and they sang during the service. Ron Bernstein also spoke to the Hebrew School students on the Israeli Movement for Progressive Judaism on December 16. Overall, classes are going well.
- H. **Marketing and Public Relations Committee:** Chair Renee Frank stated her committee is cultivating connections to media in Las Cruces. They are putting together a calendar to anticipate all events that will need publicity.
- I. **Social Action Committee:** Chair Ned Rubin reported that at their recent meeting they discussed the upcoming Panel Discussion on Poverty, to be co-sponsored with the Adult Education Committee, on Sunday, January 24. They have secured four presenters: Dr. Jim Peach, NMSU economist; Amanda Formica, Ocotillo Institute for Social Justice; Kasandra Gandara, City Councilor from the 1<sup>st</sup> District; and Martin Nanna, Manager of El Caldito. They plan to provide a two-part forum. The first will provide information and greater understanding of poverty and related issues. The next meeting will be on December 23 at 1:30 pm, to which anyone is welcome. They will discuss the format of the poverty forum. Also to be discussed is a suggestion that our synagogue, through the Social Action Committee, look into what is involved in "adopting" a Syrian family.

### **Old Business**

- A. **Bricks in Memory of Mel Taylor and Mary Fitzgerald:** Monika suggested that we purchase bricks for both Mel Taylor and Mary Fitzgerald. It was proposed that the brick

for Mel would be 8x8 and the brick for Mary would be 4x8. Dave Zeemont said that he would pay the difference so that the larger brick would be purchased for both. There was a motion on the floor regarding the size of the bricks. After discussion, a motion was made to purchase the different sized bricks. The vote failed with 3 in favor, 6 opposed, 2 abstentions. Ann made a motion that we purchase two equally sized bricks with the additional funds paid by an anonymous donor. The vote passed with 8 in favor, 1 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

- B. Emergency Preparedness / Security Management Update:** Mark Saltman was absent, so discussion was postponed until next month.
- C. Kosh Technology Report Update:** Monika Kimball provided Bob's handout showing savings based on their consultation with her son-in-law. We will still use Kosh for technology support, but less than previously. The Kosh Solution for New Server Protection (including appliance cost and monthly service) and Hosted Exchange (including migration and monthly service) is more costly (total 3 year cost of \$4,565.64 and monthly fee of \$126.80) than the Technology Committee Solution for the same services (3 year total of \$760 and monthly fee of \$21.11). The Committee decided that the server was no longer important and opted for a computer-based firewall. They also decided to create the Microsoft Portal themselves and apply as a non-profit.
- D. I.D. Buttons Update:** Ann Berkson visited two trophy stores in town to investigate the I.D. buttons. It is less expensive to order the item online. At this time, however, the Board decided to use adhesive nametags instead, if it is decided to ask congregants to use nametags.
- E. Affiliation with Jewish Federation of El Paso and/or Jewish Federation of New Mexico:** This item was addressed earlier.
- F. Food Donations Delivery to Casa de Peregrinos:** Rabbi will handle this.
- G. Compliance with Las Cruces Safety Codes and New Wooden Door:** Allen Blum reported on the door that we are looking into purchasing. He is waiting to get more information from Rawson's. The door will include the required push bar on the inside and windows on the door as well. Leslie mentioned another company in town whom she could approach as well, and she will get back to the Board with what she finds out.

### **New Business**

- A. No new business to report.

### **Guest Comments**

- A. **If any guests are present, they are invited to make comments:** Linda Kruger was present. She gave a report on the Library Committee during the committee reports.

### **Executive Session:**

- A. No items to discuss or vote on.

### **Next Meeting Dates:**

Date of next Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday, January 19, 2016 @ 5:30pm  
Date of next Board of Trustees meeting: Thursday, January 28, 2016 @ 7:00pm

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned by President Monika Kimball at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen Torres

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